



# **2019 Annual Report**

**Erindale United Church**

**1444 Dundas Crescent  
Mississauga, Ontario  
L5C 1E9**

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Mississauga, Ontario L5C 1E9  
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**[www.erindaleunited.church](http://www.erindaleunited.church)**

A Congregation of  
The United Church of Canada

**Mission Statement**

*"Erindale United Church is a people of God.  
We embrace, proclaim and practice  
the Gospel of Jesus Christ.  
We seek justice for all people,  
striving to become a loving, nurturing  
ministering community."*

**Minister**

Rev. Brenna Baker  
Email: [minister@erindaleunited.church](mailto:minister@erindaleunited.church)

**Psalm 98 Coordinators**

Jim Bright (Jan-Aug) and Harvey Watson (Sept-Dec)  
Email: [psalm98@gmail.com](mailto:psalm98@gmail.com)

**Office Administrator**

Sarah McEwing  
Email: [churchoffice@erindaleunited.church](mailto:churchoffice@erindaleunited.church)

**Wedding Consultants**

Joyce Murdoch (Jan-Aug) and Oksana Manchur & Cathy Stone (Sept-Dec)  
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## From the Minister's Desk

*Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?*  
1 Corinthians 3:16

Dear Friends,

What a gift it is to have this opportunity to reflect every year on how God has moved through us and challenged us over the past calendar year. Certainly, we have much to be grateful for and much to look ahead to.

A highlight of this year was celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Dedication of the Sanctuary in October. I remain so thankful to the team that planned the celebration dinner and Sunday morning fellowship, those who organized and contributed to the thoughtful anniversary gifts for our congregation (we'll be dedicating our tree and park bench in the spring!), and those who participated in the worship service.

Indeed, it's been a time to think about how we're rooted as a faith community. Despite all the changes over the years, we remain a congregation committed to loving one another and our community, a community grounded in Christ, a community that loves worship and music, and a community committed to working hard to learn and grow in the Spirit.

The season of the anniversary was a blessed time to remember those who gave so much to God through this church, those who comforted us and inspired us. And it was a time to remember that we have remained faithful in the midst of past challenges, always coming out stronger on the other side.

So we're rooted, but like a tree, we're also growing. We are aware that God's church needs creativity and imagination, and we're exploring ways of engaging new voices and ideas, and new ways of collaborating with other groups and congregations. As we reflected on during our anniversary worship service, God challenges us to build a sanctuary for this modern day that isn't made of bricks and mortar, but one of compassion, grace, and justice.

To that end, continuing our "Rooted and Growing" theme this year, Council has discerned some values and priorities to guide us and center us in the coming year or two. They are as follows:

**Values:** inclusivity, empathy, Spirit-led, worshipful, and outreach/justice oriented

**Mission Priorities:** Leadership (especially training and equipping), faith formation, pastoral care, and community outreach and social justice.

Meeting these priorities will only be possible when we all share our gifts, ideas, support and enthusiasm. Any and all ideas are welcome! It's also a great year to consider stepping into some kind of service or leadership role. As I write this report in mid-January, many positions will need to be filled in our organizational structure. All that is needed is a commitment to sharing thoughts and wisdom (which we all have), and an openness to learning. Please prayerfully discern if this might be a year to try something new within our church community.

Aside from these general reflections, here are some highlights for me of ministering with you in 2019:

- All the Spirit-filled, life-giving conversations over coffee, in your homes, and in hospital rooms. Thank you for sharing your lives with me.
- All the patience, grace, and flexibility that went into our music ministry in a year without a permanent music director. Special thanks to Jutta Argao for countless hours finding substitutes, the M&P committee for working through challenging situations, the choir for learning and adapting to many new styles of leadership, Psalm 98 for stepping up their contributions and teaching us new songs, and DJ Ralph Nott who has become quite proficient in using recorded music in worship.
- Related to the above, I'm grateful for all your insights that went into the Music Task Force report, which helped to clearly articulate a theology and vision for music in worship. Huge thanks to the team that worked on that this year.
- All the time spent with you in the community (and wider community) – the Coldest Night walk for The Dam, the trip to Six Nations in May, special community services like The World Day of prayer and UCW Advent service, and our block party and sale in May.
- All the opportunities to worship and work ecumenically like the Good Friday service with Sheridan United, shared summer services with the Mississauga Mennonite Fellowship, and the ecumenical vigil for asylum seekers and refugees in October (which raised over \$200 to support our Mission and Service partners assisting migrants in Central America).
- All the time of study and deep conversation like the Lenten faith and film study, the Unraveled on-line and in-person studies, and the *Women of Christmas* Advent study. Thank you to those who participated and honestly shared some of your own stories, reflections, doubts and questions.
- And yes, even all the meetings! I know that committee and other meetings are sacrifices of time away from home and family. Your dedication and faith regularly inspire me, and I delight in our time together that is often filled with laughter, deep thought on our calling as a church, and concern for others.

Finally, I wish to thank Sarah McEwing for her amazing ministry as our office administrator—often helping to keep me organized, making sure doors are opened (literally and figuratively), and welcoming guests with great warmth. Our church couldn't be the great community resource it is without her.

Thanks too to Ralph Nott, our Chair of Council, and the whole council for navigating a challenging year with great thought, care, compassion, and faith. I'm honoured to serve alongside of you all.

I look forward to continuing to build God's church with you in 2020.

Blessings,

Rev. Brenna Baker

### Chair of Council

As I reflect on the past year, I am grateful for the strong Council we have at Erindale. As a team, we have discussed many topics openly and honestly, with the objective of ensuring alignment and advancement of Erindale's values and priorities.

Council began discerning where the Spirit is leading our community and what our priorities should be now. Council agreed that Erindale United has a good set of administrative tools but at times these no longer best serve today's congregation. A new approach could, ideally, assure that the full church family, and not just a select few, be consulted and kept informed. Past Councils have always tried to make sure that they did not make mistakes, but perhaps the time has come to accept, as a general principle, that EUC should not be afraid to try new things.

Rev. Brenna invited Christine Jerrett to speak with Council on the "Into the Promise" program. This program is designed to encourage lay people to try new initiatives where established familiar ones do not seem to be working any longer. Claudette Neita, Pat Jenkins and Mary Patterson have agreed to be part of a team, utilizing the book by Alan Roxburgh, *Joining God, Remaking Church, Changing the World*. This book offers a five-step process: listening to God, each other and neighbours, and then discerning, testing out, reflecting, and reporting back. Erindale's team will interact with other Mississauga United Churches going through the same process.

A Council retreat was held in November, and focused on 3 key topics:

- **Living Faith Story** – Council discussed the gifts and skills of Erindale and the community. Where would our gifts be welcome and needed in the world today? What is it that fills the congregation with passion? Are there signs that it might be good to look at ways to partner with other organizations or communities of faith?
- **Structural Changes and Succession Planning** – Council reviewed the current committee structures at Erindale, along with the Table of Organization. It has been quite some time since Erindale has a full slate of committee members. Council made the decision initiate a pilot and transition Christian Development, Outreach and Communications to Ministry Teams rather than formal committees. The Ministry Teams will gather around and work towards specific time bound projects.

- **Values and Priorities** – Council members engaged in several activities throughout the day to help draw out values that are important to Erindale, and to develop priorities for the upcoming year. Each committee will be reviewing the values and priorities that have been developed and incorporate into their work. Erindale's focus for 2020 is:
  - **Values** – Inclusive, Empathy, Worshipful, Spirit-led, Outreach/Justice (encompassing love for our neighbours near and far)
  - **Priorities** – Leadership, Faith Formation, Pastoral Care, Outreach and Social Justice

A Music Task Force was initiated with the mandate to review the music program at Erindale, seeking input from stakeholders and making recommendations for short, medium and long term structure and focus of our Ministry of Music. The task force developed a Ministry of Music statement and identified short-term, medium-term and long-term recommendations that were brought to Council for initiation as quickly as possible. Many short-term and medium-term recommendations are underway. I would like to express my appreciation for the thoughtful and thorough report that was prepared and delivered to Council. Members of this task force included Jutta Argao, Doug Johnston, Margaret McCrae Claudette Neita, Jennifer Nhu and Laura Turner.

#### Did You Know?

- **Licensed Lay Leader Program** –The Licensed Lay Leader program addresses four aspects of church work: liturgy, preaching, prayer, and work with all ages & special events. Erindale is supporting Rachel Nott's desire to participate in this program by appointing five members of Erindale to mentor and provide feedback.
- **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Dedication of the Sanctuary** – Through the generous donations of our Erindale family, the following gifts were purchased to invite us and our neighbours to celebrate God's people and God's creation:
  - A new Japanese maple tree in the memorial gardens
  - A bench for the green area outside the church's front doors to encourage contemplation and conversation
  - A bench and plaque to be placed in Erindale Park

Ralph Nott, Chair of Council

## **Reports of Standing Committees**

### **Christian Development**

#### **Mission**

To develop and sustain a nurturing environment for Christian Education programs that provide knowledge and understanding of God's word and meet the needs of all members and segments of the Erindale family and community.

#### **Mandate**

To develop the policies and programs for Christian education within Erindale, according to United Church standards, and to ensure there are resources, including financial, to carry out these programs with approval of Council. This includes support and guidance for Sunday School programs and teachers, adult education, youth ministry and any opportunities for spiritual growth.

#### **Achievements in 2019**

Christian Development looks forward to helping any person that is interested to start up a regular meeting/program at the Church for education, health or spiritual growth.

The Sunday School program has been ably and enthusiastically overseen by Sunday School coordinator Terry Wykurz and a dedicated group of teachers and parent volunteers. Thanks to all for your wonderful work. The Sunday School classes meet during Sunday worship services and the teaching encourages the learning of the Bible. The Sunday School continues to enjoy the two classrooms off Gardner Hall. This past year included the participation of the students and teachers in special worship services including Christmas Fest and a youth led service on Mother's Day. The graduation service and picnic were well attended and enjoyed by many.

### **Communications Committee**

Website operations at Erindale United Church have continued successfully since 2018. (For more details consult last year's annual Communications report). During 2019, major problems occurred for the communications committee. Fraser Code was forced to resign from the committee because of poor vision. Another member of the committee could no longer participate in its activities. Faced with these challenges, the work of the committee continues on an Ad Hoc basis. In the long term, complete restructuring of the committee and its responsibilities will be in order. This problem is presently being addressed by Church Council.

#### **Membership (After October, 2019)**

**Chair and Contact** Vacant

**Others** Rachel Nott (**ex officio**): Rev. Brenna L. Baker, Sarah McEwing



## **Congregational Care**

### **Mission**

Our goal is to develop and maintain a nurturing and enjoyable environment that will provide a knowledge and understanding of God's love.

### **Mandate**

In working towards our mission, we provide pastoral care through visiting, communicating, and welcoming visitors, members, and friends of Erindale United Church.

### **Committee Members**

Jennifer Code, Dianne Drennan, Pat Jenkins, Margaret McCrae, Joanne Stewart, Cindy Williams and Sandra Wiseman. Ruth Nott and Pat Viau join us at home in praying for those on our prayer list.

### **Achievements in 2019**

We pray for anyone who requests our prayers, for members of the congregation and their families, and others whose needs come to our attention.

- A prayer request box is on a table in the Narthex. Anyone in need of prayer is encouraged to place their request in this box. All requests are held in confidence. You may also present your requests to any member of Congregational Care. Past prayers have been primarily for those facing illness, bereavement, and life changes.
- Cindy Williams continues to mail our sympathy, get well, new member, thinking of you, new baby and 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary of baptism cards. If you know of someone who would appreciate receiving a pastoral care card, please contact Cindy or Sarah McEwing in the church office
- Jennifer Code took orders for subscriptions to the United Church Observer. The magazine is now called Broadview.
- Each Sunday morning, a member of Congregational Care is available at the Welcome Table to meet and help visitors and to answer any questions. A welcome package is given to them and we invite them to join us for refreshments in Gardner Hall after the service.
- We visit some members in their homes, particularly those who are unable to attend services.
- We again organized, prepared and served a luncheon in May for members over eighty years of age. This was well attended and so successful that we are planning another for this year. Thanks to Marilyn Johnston who spearheaded and coordinated this event.
- We helped with Christmas in a Minor Key on December 13, and served refreshments after the service.
- Cards were mailed in December to each person in our congregation who was bereaved and to the parents who had their children baptized during 2019.

- Rev. Brenna joined us to assemble Christmas baskets which we delivered to some members of the congregation.
- Sandra again placed a Canadian flag on the memorial stone of John Lee, who served in the air force, for the Remembrance Day service. She also placed red roses on the name markers in the memorial garden just before the Christmas services. On Christmas Eve to the congregation's surprise and pleasure, each memorial stone had a flickering tea light on it. The effect was hypnotic and spiritual. Many congregants remarked on how much they appreciated them. Thanks again to Sandra.
- We thank Rev. Brenna for her support of our committee, and thank you once again to Sarah McEwing for all that she does to make our work easier.

### **Plans for 2020**

- Continue to encourage new members to join our committee
- Continue to welcome and invite visitors to join us for refreshments after worship
- Regularly update the prayer requests and encourage feedback from those requesting prayer. People requesting prayers are encouraged to keep us informed about progress and changes so that we may know how to pray, and when prayers are no longer needed.
- Explore new ways of supporting members of the congregation.

**Contacts** Jennifer Code, Dianne Drennan, Pat Jenkins, Margaret McCrae, Joanne Stewart, Cindy Williams and Sandra Wiseman.

## **Finance and Property**

### **Mandate**

To ensure proper financial controllership and property management within the context of service to God, our members and our community. To create an environment within the Church where financial resources are spent to ensure the Church's future needs are met and accomplish future goals.

The Finance and Property Committee is concerned with tangible property and funds, and so the vision and the mission of the Committee get woven together.

### **Mandate Execution**

The Finance & Property Committee is responsible to manage the following activities:

- contracts for snow removal, outside maintenance, heating and cleaning
- manage the relationship with our renter, Tender Years
- general interior maintenance, painting & repairs
- financial analysis, annual detailed budget and 3 year plan
- safety & security, including contracts with companies supplying these services

- church bookings, rental arrangements (chess club and fitness group being two examples)
- offertory counting coordinator, large funding raising, trustee liaison
- treasury, envelop steward, congregational giving statistics and analysis, work with Stewardship Committee
- manage the capital budget

### **Achievements In 2019**

The following jobs were completed, fixed the pot holes in the parking lot, tile repairs in the school, flood repairs in the hall, pest control, flushed the storm drains, replaced the sump pump, installed a concrete path so it is easier for the school and our cleaner to take the garbage out to the front, music and minister's office doors were installed and negotiated a new five year lease agreement with the school that provides modest yearly rent increases. Added three new renters - Cocaine Anonymous, uses the boardroom every Friday night, Tai Chi uses the hall most Friday nights and Rooks to Cooks which uses the kitchen and hall Monday to Friday for all of July and August.

### **Plans for 2020**

Install monitors in the sanctuary and ensure all cabling is properly connected to the sound board/mixer at the back of the sanctuary, complete the installation of heater baseboards in the school, install a backflow value in the furnace room as this is mandated by the city to control water flow, do some renovations in the church office (plans have not be finalized) and complete phase 3 of the hall renovation by purchasing tables and chairs.

Thank You to Carolyn Hendricks for all the work she had done for F&P. Carolyn retired from this committee in September 2019. Steve Wykurz notified F&P and council that he is stepping down as the chair in September 2020 and made an offer to co-chair for 2020/2021 if someone would agree to co-chair.

### **Committee Members**

David Drennan, Carolyn Hendricks, Craig Laferriere, Brian Longley, Barbara Manchur (Treasurer), Paul Sabourin, Steve Wykurz, Norma Macintyre (Controller), Bill McIntosh, Bob Rogers, Craig McLean, Joy Cunningham (Secretary), Janice Everett (Tender Year's Coordinator) and Sarah McEwing (Envelope Steward).

Contact Steve Wykurz, Chair

## **Stewardship**

### **Mission**

To assist each member and participant of Erindale United Church to, as is appropriate to them, give time, money and energy to the total mission and ministry of the Church.

## **Mandate**

To have full understanding of the givings and giving patterns of the congregation; to plan stewardship campaigns which will match the givings of the congregation to yearly budgets and targets for support of the church; to educate members and participants as to the givings that the church needs to continue its mission and ministry and to educate new members and participants as to how they may support the church with givings, of time and money.

The Stewardship Committee meets on a regular (monthly) basis and works throughout the church year to ensure our mission and mandate are met. In 2019, the Committee had five members: Paul Sabourin (Chair), Carolyn Hendricks, Laura Turner, Christian Hawn and Rev. Brenna Baker. As of January 1, 2020, Carolyn Hendricks will assume the role of Chair, and Paul Sabourin will remain as a member.

Our 2019 Stewardship campaign was coordinated with the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary campaign, and discussed the concept of “Rooted and Growing” over 4 separate Sundays in October and November. We were successful in leading a campaign to raise funds for 3 inter-connected projects: the planting of a new tree in the Memorial Garden; the building of a bench around the large maple tree opposite our church entrance; and the dedication of a bench in Erindale Park to commemorate EUC’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – echoing last year’s themes of thinking within our congregation, within our neighborhood, and in the broader Mississauga community. During the campaign, we emphasized that the Church is in good financial shape; as such, we simply need our combined givings for 2020 to match our 2019 givings and the Church should function well from a financial standpoint. We did emphasize, once again, that the congregation needs members’ time as well as money to thrive over 2020 and beyond. We believe our 2019 campaign was positively received.

Last year (2018) we had indicated that we were slightly ahead of plan for 2018 givings, and we had presented a balanced budget for our 2019 year, so we asked our members to keep their givings constant to help keep EUC in good financial shape. I am pleased to report that our financial goals for 2019 *were* well met with almost flat givings versus 2018, so our “ask” this year for 2020 givings was relatively low key. Our financial Stewardship message continues to be: stay the course – but when we need to ask more stridently, we will!

Thank you to all the people who provided a completed pledge form. Total givings in 2017 were \$207,438, a decrease from 2016, against a 2017 budget of \$215,000. Total givings for 2018 were \$221,003 versus a budget of \$210,000, which we think was a good response to our ask. Total givings for 2019 were just over \$221,000 versus a budget of \$214,000, so right on where we had asked. Based on our calculations of Pledges, and additional PAR and loose offerings, our best estimate is that we should reach approximately \$214,000 in givings for 2020 F&P for the 2020 budgets.

**Contacts:** Carolyn Hendricks (Chair), Laura Turner, Christian Hawn, Paul Sabourin, Rev. Brenna Baker

## **Ministry and Personnel**

### **Mission**

The Ministry and Personnel Committee provides a confidential setting for consultation, support and assessment of all staff, together with support and consultation for congregants at Erindale.

### **Mandate**

M&P meets with staff and church groups when requested to ensure objectives are clearly understood and communicated as defined by Council. Once a year, each staff member participates in a performance review with two committee members. Ongoing discussions provide both Staff and Council an opportunity to monitor progress and provide an opportunity for mutual reflection on accomplishments, performance against objectives and to make continuing education plans for the subsequent year.

The Ministry and Personnel Committee is the human resources committee of the church; with responsibility for managing areas such as: Employment standards, Human Rights and Harassment, Workplace Health and Safety, relationship with the Region's Pastoral Care Staff. The committee provides consultation and support for the staff of Erindale United Church and for the members and adherents of the congregation. The committee works with members of staff to ensure they are supported from both an administrative and personal perspective, in a way that allows them to best carry out their responsibilities.

### **Achievements in 2019**

This was an extremely busy year for the M&P members. An enormous amount of time was given to the management of the challenges presented for our church, by the repercussions from the Court's decision concerning Robert Anderson's charges and the continuous delays in further proceedings over many months.

Performance reviews were conducted, personnel policies and procedures were reviewed and ad hoc issues were handled as they arose.

All salary reviews were completed and approved by Council. Worked closely with the Worship Committee on the contract for our supply Music Director.

We look forward to continuing working with, and supporting, the Rev. Brenna and Sarah McEwing. The Rev. Brenna as she continues her ministry and leadership of our congregation, and Sarah as supports us all in her role as Office Administrator. We wish to record our sincere thanks to Marilyn Johnston and Lowell Hendricks for their valuable service on our committee. We give a warm welcome to Craig Laferriere who joined our committee in May 2019, also to Barbara Manchur and Harvey Watson who joined our Committee in January 2020.

Committee Members: George Beagley (Chair), Jennifer Code (Secretary), Craig Laferriere, Barbara Manchur, Cathy Stone, Harvey Watson.

## Outreach

This past year, we participated in a number of outreach projects to support our neighbours both locally and abroad. We deepened existing partnerships with groups like The Deacon's Cupboard and The Dam, and tried new things such as an ecumenical prayer service to support asylum seekers around the world. Here are some highlights:

- \$25,409 was collected for the **Mission and Service Fund** of the United Church of Canada. M&S partners with agencies around the world to feed the hungry, provide support following disasters, offer medical assistance, educate and empower local people, and many other initiatives.
- We sent a pallet of food to **The Deacon's Cupboard** food pantry in March. Our financial offerings to benefit The Dam allow these pallet purchases of food at a significantly discounted rate. Additionally, several EUC members volunteer regularly at The Deacon's Cupboard, and Rev. Brenna acts as the "on-call" minister, offering spiritual support to volunteers and guests two months a year. Once again, we collected backpacks in the summer to benefit families of The DC that might have trouble purchasing school supplies. About 40 were donated. In the autumn, we participated in the coat drive, which was expanded this year due to more churches' participation. Thanks to Scott Tranton for organizing this initiative this year.
- In 2019, we had a team of 11 walk in **The Coldest Night of the Year to benefit The Dam** youth drop-in Centre. We raised \$3000 for this great organization. In December, we collected items to provide Christmas gifts to two youth of The Dam.
- At our annual Pancake Supper, we raised \$625 for youth programming at **The Indigenous Network** (formerly Peel Aboriginal Network). Angela Boyer was in attendance to lead us in a drumming song and tell us a bit about their programming.
- In May, eleven of us from EUC traveled to the **Six Nations Reserve** in Brantford. Staying at Five Oaks, we toured the reserve to learn about the history and culture of the First Nations peoples who live there. Our tour touched on the history of the area pre-contact, the painful legacy of residential schools and the church's involvement, as well as how the community is once again embracing traditional means of caring for the earth while educating visitors. The group reported on their visit in a worship service in June.
- Also in May, in collaboration with our UCW garage sale, we hosted our first **Block Party**. The Mississauga Mennonite Fellowship, St. Peter's Anglican, and Erindale Presbyterian also participated. Although it was a rainy day, we had several neighbourhood families come out to enjoy the games and bounce house.
- In October, also with local Erindale churches, we hosted a prayer service for refugees and asylum seekers. An offering was taken and \$254 was sent to our Mission and Service partner, **ACT Alliance**, which provides access to protection, basic needs and information to asylum seekers along the Central America-Mexico-U.S. Corridor.

At the November Council retreat, Council determined that our Outreach ministry will be transitioned to a Ministry Team in 2020 (rather than a traditional committee). The Ministry Team will focus on organizing time-bound, action-oriented projects. Members may come and go as they wish around specific projects. Ideas are encouraged and very needed.

## Board of Trustees

### Mission & Mandate

The Board of Trustees of Erindale United Church holds all the property of our congregation for the use and benefit of the congregation as part of the United Church. As a result, the Board of Trustees deals with property issues that would normally be associated with ownership although the day-to-day responsibility of property management belongs to Finance and Property Committee.

### 2019 Highlights

- The Trustees initiated and organized a very successful 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary weekend as a celebration of the opening of our Sanctuary in 1969. The Celebration included a Saturday evening dinner along with entertainment and a Sunday Church service following the format of the 1969 service.
- Trustees were front and center in developing and implementing a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary gift. A 3 part plan was developed as follows:
  - 1) **Congregational Focus** - plant a Japanese maple in the Memorial Garden. This will be completed in the spring of 2020.
  - 2) **Neighborhood Focus** - install a bench in the area at the front of the church for the use of not only the congregation but also our neighbors. This was completed on Oct.25, 2019
  - 3) **Community Focus** - install a bench in Erindale Park (with a plaque). This will be done in the spring of 2020
- With the able assistance and work of Jan Everett considerable color was added to the Memorial Garden, the companion garden and the gardens at the front and rear of the church.
- Custom Lawn Sprinklers continued to maintain the sprinkler systems.
- Archival activity focused during 2019 on the music library holdings, both the Senior Choir music and the Psalm 98 material. Erindale's sheet music collection, for many years suited to choirs of as many as fifty singers, is now culled down to serve about half that number, the pieces most commonly used being easily accessible in file folders in drawers in the music office.
- In 2019 the Archives initiated use of a memory stick to which files are to be regularly added. The memory stick is secured in the church vault when not in use. Digitizing years of committee reports proceeds slowly.
- Continued to monitor and made appropriate investment decisions on the Manse and Endowment Funds

## **Plans for 2020**

- In 2020, further planting will be done in the Memorial Garden and the companion garden with the goal of creating color.
- Continue our work on risk assessments and present our findings to the appropriate groups.
- Monitor the performance of both the Manse and Endowment Funds and manage the portfolios accordingly.
- Undertake the planting of the Japanese Maple in the Memorial Garden and the placing of a bench in Erindale Park as mentioned above.
- Continue work to digitize official church documents and cataloguing of Psalm 98 material.

## **Members**

Earl Cochrane (Chair), Doug Johnston (Vice Chair), Brian Longley, Eleanor McIntosh, Fred Williams, Priscilla Brandy, Tom McIlwraith, Mary Patterson, Garry Jenkins, Rev Brenna Baker and Sarah McEwing (as non- voting Secretary).

**Contact:** Earl Cochrane, Chair

## **Worship**

### **Mission**

Enable worship, which is open, inviting and involving to all to celebrate their faith; which reflects elements both traditional and new that can be shared by all members of our community, and is the basis for joyful praise, inspired action and deeper commitment.

### **Mandate**

- Co-ordination and supervision of all phases of worship
- Work with the Minister and Director of Music to co-ordinate, support and supervise all phases of worship
- Approve all activities which take place in the sanctuary
- Arrange for supply ministers and organists, as required, to provide pastoral care and conduct Sunday services

### **Achievements in 2019**

The Committee articulated three goals for 2019: renewed, innovative music worship; expanded congregational participation in worship; and integration of technology enablers into worship. Here some of the ways in which we pursued those goals:



- Early in the year, the committee supported the establishment and the work of the Music Task Force. Its mandate was to articulate a vision for music worship, and to make recommendations to Council about how we as a church can live into that vision. Council accepted the Task Force's recommendations in June, and as a result, we now have:
  - A Ministry of Music Statement (read it on the church website)
  - 50 additional copies of *More Voices*
  - A vision for music in service to worship and as an outreach vehicle into our community
- Through the summer, and based on the Music Task Force Report, we worked with the Ministry & Personnel Committee to develop a new job description for the Music Director, and subsequent to Council approval in the fall, participated in launching the Music Director Search Committee.
- While we were supporting the development of our future music program and its leadership, we maintained the necessary supports for current music worship in the absence of a music director. This support included sourcing supply music leaders, playing recorded music, and the ongoing fantastic music of the choir and praise band. Heartfelt thanks to all who helped the Erindale United congregation to make joyful noise in 2019!
- We continued to support audio-visual enablers for worship and have received lots of positive, helpful feedback about using the screen. As a result, and with Council support, work is in progress to put in place a permanent system of visual display monitors in the sanctuary.
- We continued to intentionally, and in partnership with Rev. Brenna, explore different worship themes and celebrations. This included the Crop Over Singers and steel pan player Vincent Fraser who supported our Black History service in February, and Elder Cat Criger who spoke about the role of music in Indigenous spirituality in June.
- Throughout the year, committee members actively supported worship by serving communion, assisting with baptisms and making sure the antependia are changed in accordance with the church seasons.
- As in prior years, Erindale hosted the congregation of the Mississauga Mennonite Fellowship for joint Worship Services in July and August.

#### **Plans for 2020:**

- Support the Music Director Search Committee
- Contribute to the on-boarding and ongoing success of the new Music Director
- Develop a "sound crew" that can work the sound board and a group that can manage the logistics of opening and closing the church during summer months
- Manage the summer schedule
- Continue to offer regular Services for Baptism and Communion

#### **Acknowledgements:**

It takes many hands to support worship every week. The Worship Committee thanks everyone for their part, including:

- Those whose membership ended in 2019: Angela Brien, Jim Bright, Fraser Code, Brian Crombie, Jean-Louis Voyer
- Rev. Brenna for always looking ahead, devising uplifting worship themes and finding an effective balance between tradition and innovation
- The Choir and members of Psalm 98 for their inspiring Music Ministry
- Rachel Nott and Ralph Nott for working the technology: sound board, microphones, computers and screens – 2019 was the year of “DJ Ralph”, adding recorded music to the mix
- Sarah McEwing for preparing bulletins every week – and for countless other “behind the scenes” things
- Ushers for warmly welcoming everyone on Sundays and making sure church is open, bulletins are handed out and people’s needs are met
- Everyone who volunteered during the year as Lector and to serve communion
- Everyone who volunteered during the year as Refreshment Hosts after worship

### **Members:**

Jutta Argao (chairperson), Karen Bright (lector co-ordinator), Claudette Neita, Rachel Nott, Ralph Nott, Carol Tranton (head usher effective November 2019), Rev. Brenna Baker

**Are you curious about what we do, or want to help with worship services? You could serve communion, welcome baptismal candidates and families, usher, or read scripture. Talk to any one of us, or drop by our regular meetings (monthly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.).**

**Contact** Jutta Argao, Chair

## **Ministry of Music**

### **Mandate and Overview**

Music at Erindale is provided by three groups: the Senior Choir, Psalm 98, and “DJ Ralph.”

The Senior Choir provides musical leadership for the congregation of Erindale during worship services and related occasions such as funerals and memorials. Its repertoire of introits, anthems and benedictions (and sometimes music during offertory and communion) is largely traditional, drawing upon a large library of sheet music and a number of choral music books, accompanied by organ or piano. Microphones are used to enhance choral and solo presentations.

Psalm 98 provides musical leadership for the congregation during worship services, focusing on contemporary music provided by keyboard, guitar, flute and percussion. Psalm 98 members provide prelude music and sometimes contemporary pieces during the youth portion of services. Microphones enhance individual singers who frequently provide solo numbers.

Generally the Senior Choir and Psalm 98 present their music separately, but there have been a number of occasions during 2019 when the two groups have sung and played together.

“DJ Ralph” (aka Ralph Nott) offers musical leadership for the congregation during services when no accompanist is available, through the mixing board and sound system located at the rear of

the sanctuary. Erindale has a complete set of “Voices United” music recorded instrumentally to lead choristers and congregation. Ralph would be the first to acknowledge that he is not a musician, but he has clearly demonstrated in 2019 that he is a fine technician.

### **The Year 2019 in Review**

2019 has been a year of change for the music program at Erindale. Our Music Director Robert Anderson resigned during the summer leading to the forming of the Erindale Music Search Committee. During the spring a task force established priorities for Erindale’s music program, and its recommendations have formed the basis for a job description to fill the Music Director vacancy. The search committee is active late in 2019

During the year Erindale has welcomed six guest organists, some for individual occasions and others for many weeks. We acknowledge the generosity of Wayne Detcher, Mark Ruhnke, Marianne Gast, Laura McClure, Christine Hanson and Hazel Ogilvie. Erindale has been blessed to have such a range of fine talent.

In the Senior Choir ranks Gladys Williams retired after decades of dedication to the soprano section. Marilyn Johnston and Arlene Stevens have ‘stepped aside’ as other commitments press upon them; Dora Williams has been on medical leave. It’s a pleasure to see more of Susan Bowman and Priscilla Brandy: we hope such attendance is habit-forming.

Early in 2019, Psalm 98 covered a significant fraction of the services. When Jim Bright took a leave of absence in September, Psalm 98 became creative in their quest for accompaniment and offered the congregation much appreciated worship music. During the Christmas season, Steve Code, Samantha Argao and many other volunteers were welcome additions to the group.

All the Erindale musicians gratefully acknowledge the steady support and encouragement shown by the congregation. They know we are all volunteers and strive to do our best for the life of Erindale.

### **Anticipation for 2020**

- Welcoming a new Director of Music
- Continued increased interaction among members of Psalm 98, the Senior Choir and DJ Ralph
- Choir resume, and maybe increase, “a cappella” and solo work
- Psalm 98 consistently provide musical leadership twice a month
- Continue the practice of having augmented choir occasions several times a year
- Completion of the cataloguing of the Psalm 98 and Senior Choir music collections
- Maybe an organ concert?
- Welcoming new vocalists and instrumentalists

### **Membership** **Senior choir:**

- **Soprano:** Susan Bowman, Norma Brown, Selina Campbell, Aileen Jamieson, Mavis Mahabir, Arlene Stevens, Dorothy Weston, Gladys Williams
- **Alto:** Ellen Dunlop, Nadia Lay, Barb Manchur, Dora Williams
- **Tenor:** Fraser Code, Doug Johnston, Edward Neufeld
- **Bass:** Don Lay, Tom McIlwraith, Fred Williams
- **Executive:** President Emeritus - Edward Neufeld; President - Fraser Code; Librarian - Tom McIlwraith; Gown and Collar Custodian - Mavis Mahabir
- **Contact:** Fraser Code

#### **Psalm 98:**

- **Jim Bright:** guitar and vocals
- **Cindy Mahabir:** vocals
- **Harvey Watson:** flute and vocals
- **Linda Watson:** vocals
- **Sarah Watson:** vocals
- **Janet Lovekin:** percussion
- **Jennifer Nhu:** vocals
- **Contact:** Harvey Watson

### **Erindale Chancel Players**

This year the Erindale Chancel Players participated in a joint Good Friday presentation with Sheridan United Church. The readings "*Jesus' Passion*" were based on *The Last Week: A day by Day account of Jesus' Final Week in Jerusalem* by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan.

The players also participated as readers at services throughout the year, such as for the Advent series of poems "*What Can't Wait*" by Sarah Are.

On Christmas Eve the players presented *The Innkeeper's Wife* by Doug Johnston, a reflection on the events surrounding the birth of Christ from the perspective of the innkeeper's wife, thirty years later.

The players consist of Karen Bright, Garry Jenkins, Craig Laferriere, Claudette Neita and Doug Johnston with help from Marilyn Johnston. Other members of the congregation provided audio and staging assistance, for which we are always thankful. We also appreciate the warm words of support from our friendly audiences for our efforts.

If anyone is interested in getting involved in future dramatic presentations, please let me know.

Doug Johnston

## **Horseshoe Falls Region**

Horseshoe Falls Region (and all the other regions across Canada) began operating at the beginning of 2019 as the result of the national reorganization that was approved at General Council in 2018. The first five months (until the first Region Annual Meeting at the end of May 2019) took place under the direction of the Transition Commission. Commissions (as we set the up in the United Church) are empowered to make binding decisions. This allowed Regions to start operating without a regularly elected body.

Horseshoe Falls Regions is comprised of: all pastoral charges in Erie Presbytery, all pastoral charges in Halton Presbytery, all pastoral charges in Hamilton Presbytery, all pastoral charges in Niagara Presbytery; and the Pastoral Charges of Norval, St. John's PC (Georgetown), St. Andrew's Georgetown, and Acton.

The first annual meeting for Horseshoe Falls Region was held May 24, 25 and 26, 2019 in Port Elgin, Ontario. Decisions were made there to set up the Region Executive and the Commissions of the Region: The Covenant Commission (for Governance), the Human Resources Commission (for Pastoral Relations), and the Mission & Discipleship Commission (for Faith Formation). The Executive includes a President, Treasurer, Past Chair, Chairpersons of the 3 Commissions and other members of the Executive to a total of 13 members.

There are Staff Resources for the Regions: An Executive Minister plus 11 staff members most of whom are responsible for their particular responsibilities across three regions: Horseshoe Falls Region (our Region), Western Ontario Waterways and Antler River Watershed. This encompasses over 400 communities of faith.

One important activity that affects each community of faith is that of Pastoral Relations. The Reverend Diane Blanchard is responsible for Pastoral Relations across all the communities of faith in the 3 regions and now there is a new Office of Vocations that supports the accreditation of ministry personnel.

All of the above is designed to bring professional support to all Ministry Staff and all the communities of faith in Canada. Our former Presbytery (Halton Presbytery) was reasonably adept at carrying out these responsibilities but that was not true of all Presbyteries. The new organization (the National Church together with all the Regions) has been set up to provide equal and comprehensive support across Canada.

Funding all of this: We used to have four courts of our Church: Congregations, Presbyteries, Conferences and the National Church. The layer removed (roughly 100 Presbyteries) were mostly volunteer organizations and there was not much overall cost saved by eliminating this layer. Conferences had (differing levels of) paid staff. Some of the money required to fund Conferences came from National Church reserves (savings) and not all from operating income. This obscured the total cost of operating the church and made it look less expensive than it really was.

In 2018 at General Council, the rate of assessment was set at 4.5% of ordinary Congregation revenue (income). This rate is in effect for 2019, 2020 and 2021 and then the assessment rate and the grants to Regions (from this assessment income) will be reviewed. Overall this rate is

about 25% higher than the average Presbytery Assessment rate. Halton Presbytery's assessment rate was higher than most other Presbyteries, so the assessment to the old Halton Presbytery churches (of which we are one) did not go up as much as the overall average. We have built this increase into our budgets for 2019 and beyond. The new Assessment comes much closer to funding our Church from regular operations.

Meetings: Our Region held its first Annual Meeting in May 2019 in Port Elgin. It will hold its next Annual Meeting in May 2020. We are trying to hold two meetings each year and the interim 2019 meeting was in November 2019 in Fonthill, Ontario.

During 2019, communities of faith are getting used to the new organization, who to call for support, and how they might participate. This is taking time and I can see (from some of the Region meetings) that communities of faith are using the resources that are available for their use.

As you probably know, I was the Halton Presbytery Treasurer for a number of years and I have now been duly elected as the Horseshoe Falls Treasurer for three years, renewable once. Accordingly, I attend the Executive Meetings (which have been numerous), the general meetings, and meetings of the Treasurers of all three Regions about quarterly.

Mary Patterson is a member of the Human Resources commission. Together with Rev. Brenna (who is knowledgeable about the new structure), Rev. Kate Young (Horseshoe Falls Region President), and a number of members from our old Presbytery, Erindale is very well represented and connected to the new Region.

Erindale can send 3 representatives to the Region. Mary and I represent two members, and there is room for one more. If you feel called to wider church work, please let either of us know.

I concluded 6 years on the National Church Permanent Committee for Finance, and I am in my second 3-year term as a member of the National Church Audit Committee. This helps to keep our local congregation connected to the wider church.

Prepared by: John Hurst, Horseshoe Falls Region Representative

## **Erindale United Church Women**

### **Purpose**

To unite women of the congregation for the total mission of the church and to provide a means through which we may express our loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ in Christian witness, study, fellowship and service.

### **Vision**

As Women of Faith:

We believe in nurturing spirituality by reaching out through commitment and devotion to all God's people in the promotion of truth, justice, peace, caring, and respect for all throughout the earth, God's world;

We believe in honouring God the Creator, and loving others through giving and joyful Living;

And we believe in affirming and strengthening ourselves both individually and together through creative study, prayer and action  
(UCW Handbook March 2018)

### **UCW Annual Meeting**

On February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019 the 2 units met together for the Annual Meeting. The business portion of the meeting included the January UCW Income Statement and the 2019 UCW Budget presented by Norma Macintyre, the UCW Treasurer.

Pat Jenkins, Past President, asked for nominations from the floor, none were given, the slate of officers stood as reported. A social time was followed by a program introduced by Ruth Nott; the Speakers, Lil Budden and Shirley Hoad spoke about the "Quilts of Valour" organization. Their mission is to make 20,000 quilts by 2020. They brought beautiful samples. Some ladies took kits home to sew blocks to help.

### **Yearly Activities**

Our first Soup Lunch was held on January 20<sup>th</sup> 2019, around 55 people attended, and the event was well received. We had hoped to have three more of these events, but circumstances prevented this from happening.

World Day of Prayer Service was held at Erindale this year and about 70 People attended the on Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 pm. Several Churches in the area attended and participated in the service. We were most grateful to have Rev. Brenna Baker preach the meditation and help us secure a musician for the evening. Thank you to Ralph Nott who ran a video and provided help with the sound board.

Erindale's annual Garage sale was held on Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, and a profit of \$1973 was made.

In June the Annual Social was held on June 4th and attended by approximately 40 people. A delicious buffet supper was enjoyed by all. The Heartland Singers, a Sweet Adeline group provided a wonderful medley of songs for our entertainment. Marilyn Johnston and Mary Patterson led the devotion "Defining the Spirit". The evening concluded with the awarding of a Life Membership Pin to Patricia Jenkins.

We acknowledge the support of the congregation for our special projects – donations to; the Fellowship of the Least Coin; the sale of United Church calendars; the used book sale; and the Festive Frosty Fare in December, which generated \$1,834.00 this year.

The UCW executive approved a total of \$3425.00 to be given for discretionary disbursements. This included \$600.00 to Erindale United Church; \$1000.00 for Flood Relief, through the Red Cross and the United Church of Canada; donations to 7 local organizations, and 4 national or international organizations.

\$480.00.36 was raised for the Fellowship of the Least Coin, an organization which is supported by the Women's Interchurch Council of Canada.

Members of UCW along with other women of the congregation catered two funeral receptions; lunch for the Annual Meeting on March 31<sup>st</sup>; refreshments after the World Day of Prayer Service on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Dinner for the UCW Social on June 5<sup>th</sup>; and the Soup Lunch on January 20<sup>th</sup>.

The UCW continues to provide the coffee and cookies for the Sunday coffee hour, held in Gardner Hall after church every week.

The kitchen is maintained, i.e. regularly cleaned, appliances checked and replaced as needed. The kitchen is occasionally used for special events by outside organizations and rental groups.

Our visitation convenor, Dorothy Weston, diligently contacts shut-ins and delivers flowers at Easter and Christmas. Due to illness, she was unable to visit at Easter, but was in contact with several members by phone or email. Dorothy delivered two Christmas Baskets on behalf of Congregational Care. Cards were sent to recognize special occasions, bereavement and illness. Those visited and remembered by U.C.W. are most appreciative.

Cards sent: Sympathy 3; Thinking of You/Get Well 10; Easter Cards 17; Christmas Cards 16

Members of Erindale UCW support functions planned by the wider church. We were represented at Halton Presbyterial UCW Annual Gathering (the last one); Hamilton Conference UCW Annual Gathering; and the Hamilton Conference UCW Fall Retreat held at Five Oaks.

Erindale United Church Women (UCW) has been an active and vibrant group within our congregation for many years, due to dedicated leaders and an enthusiastic membership. All women of the congregation are invited to attend any meeting. The UCW activities are printed in the Sunday bulletin and on the church website. There are two units which meet monthly.

### **Mary and Martha Circle**

This group usually meets monthly on the third Tuesday afternoon for fellowship in the McGill Room, under the leadership of Dianne Drennan. Over the past year the programmes included: fellowship and planning; The history of BATA WA; a documentary on the making of "Come



From Away"; a lunch out in June and December; and the preparation of Christmas baskets for the Deacon's Cupboard in December.

### **Friends in Faith**

This group usually meets monthly on the third Tuesday evening for fellowship in the McGill Room, Susan Lyons and Patricia Jenkins provide leadership. The programmes are planned by members either leading themselves or arranging for a speaker or video. Programmes this year included: a reflection on the witness part of the UCW Purpose; a documentary on the making of "Come From Away"; games night; a speaker from Edward Jones; a movie Night; a favourite book discussion and a lunch out in December.

<b>Erindale United Church Women 2018-2019 Executive</b>
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President	Marilyn Johnston
Vice President	Vacant
Secretary	Pat Viau
Treasurer	Norma Macintyre
Past President	Patricia Jenkins
Church Council Representative	Marilyn Johnston
	Ann Edge

<b>Convenors:</b>
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Garage Sale	Marilyn Hurst
Kitchen	Marilyn Hurst
Member at Large	Sandra Wiseman
Publicity	Ann Edge
Receptions/Social	Susan Lyons, Joyce Murdoch
Visitations	Dorothy Weston

### **Unit Leaders:**

Friends in Faith	Pat Jenkins, Susan Lyons
Mary and Martha Circle	Dianne Drennan

Report prepared by Marilyn Johnston, President

## **Book Club**

For those who love to read, this is the place to be. We meet once a month (excluding December and summertime) on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month at the church at 7:30 pm. We discuss the selected book of the month. The books are selected by a vote of the participants from a list of suggested books at the last meeting of the year in June. At this meeting we all share a food contributions and share the hosting responsibility.

At regular meeting discussions are usually lively and varied and full of insight. This group is a wonderful place to meet new Authors (so to speak) as well as getting to know the members at a deeper level

One of the strengths of our club is the fact that we meet at the church and food and refreshments are not part of our regular meetings. This cuts down on the pressure of hosting a meeting. Members have said that what they like best about the group is the friendships and that they have been challenged to read books that they would never have chosen for themselves. It certainly keeps us from getting into a rut and exposes us to new and different ideas. All in all, a perfect combination to enhance our always lively, interesting discussions.

Books read this year are:

- Jan-The Girl with Seven Names by Hyonseo Lee
- Feb-Requiem by Frances Itani
- Mar-Born a Crime by Trevor Noah
- Apr-Brother by David Chaniandy
- May-The Light-Keeper's Daughters by Jean E. Pendziwol
- Sep-The Boat People by Sharon Bala
- Oct-Full Disclosure by Beverly McLachlin
- Nov- Washington Black by Esi Edugyan

### **Members**

Melanie Blake, Kim Booth, Anne Carpenter, Cynthia Carr, Jennifer Code, Joy Cunningham, Sandra Butcher, Pat Jenkins, Sue Lyons, Marilyn Johnston, Duane McIlwraith, Horace Neita, Ruth Nott, Lois Short Elaine Thorne

Submitted by: Marilyn Johnston, Co-ordinator

## **Friday Morning Coffee Group**

### **Activities**

We are an open group of 8 - 20 folk who have been meeting since about 2013 during the months of September – June in the McGill Room each week for an “hour” or so (10 am to about 11:30 am) of conversation and stories over coffee, tea and light refreshments. The things we chat about range from life events, Church topics, current events, to arts and culture. We share experiences by telling stories, jokes, and recalling the history we lived through. This leads to meaningful memories and insights into life's challenges. Sometimes, often when our minister is present, we also discuss questions on religious topics.

Many ideas for Erindale United Church activities begin with discussions at this Friday Morning Coffee Group. Come and join the conversation and stay young at heart.

### **Membership**

Open to anyone on a drop-in basis.

**Contact** Fraser Code

## **Craft and Conversation**

We are a small group, but we are mighty and very faithful in our attendance. This is the 4<sup>nd</sup> year for this group that meets on the **first Wednesday of the month** at 10:00 at the church. It is a group that loves to do handiwork. Members bring a bit sewing, knitting, crochet or even beadwork and spend a few hours working together and sharing conversation. Last year we had a push on to knit hats for premature babies and Pneumonia vests for third world countries. It is a wonderful way to unwind and destress. There is always someone to answer a question if you get stuck. If anyone wants to learn some of these crafts, they are welcome to come and join in the fun.

**Members:** Ann Edge, Marilyn Johnston, Mary King, Ruth Nott, Linda Watson, Sandra Wiseman

Submitted by Marilyn Johnston

## **Egg (Erindale Growing Group)**

This group was formed in 1982 when there were several groups called EGGS. They were scrambled once every two years from lists of people who signed up. The groups were made of 12 people who met in people's homes on a monthly basis. There were spiritual and social groups. The program for the EGG meeting were and still are set by the monthly host. In the spring of the 2nd year there was a social dinner at the church of all the EGG groups with skits and good food.

The coordinated multi EGG initiative has long since wound down but this one current group has continued to this day. Of course some members have left and others have joined but a large portion of the membership does indeed date back to this first group.

EGG is currently 18 people strong. We have continued to meet most months and turns by members are taken to host. Each year in January we ask the question, "Do we want to continue with EGG" and so far the answer has been yes.

Discussions at these gathering are largely informal and whole group discussions occur maybe only about half the time. Topics are wide ranging but almost always centre around Erindale church life, Christianity and how we relate that to our daily life. Sometimes in informal discussions a question will come out of one corner and all will join in with their thoughts. Discussions are always amicable, thought provoking, respectful and enjoyable.

Personally, I think the group is important. I think this group has helped us grow in faith. We care and cherish each other and the church. We believe that small groups strengthen the church family because we get to know everyone just a little bit better and reinforce our shared values or understand and respect our differences.

This is not an exclusive, "invitation only" group. Currently there are 18 members and we have talked on occasion of splitting up the group as it can be a challenge sometimes to

accommodate everyone if all show up for a meeting. Perhaps we should use this group as a springboard for others? Perhaps we should splinter this group as a seed for a new group?

If you are interested in being part of this group please do not hesitate to ask any of our members as there is no official leader.

**Members** Angela and Doug Brien, Jim and Karen Bright, Marg Duckett, John and Marilyn Hurst, Pat and Garry Jenkins, Marilyn and Doug Johnston, Tom and Duane McIlwraith, Ruth Nott, Barb and Rick Owen, Lois and Doug Patterson  
Submitted by Jim Bright

## Roll Report

The statistics below reflect data required by the United Church of Canada.

	2018	2019
Number of Households under Pastoral Care	229	227
Number of Adult Baptisms	0	0
Children Baptised	7	1
Members received     a) under 18	0	0
b) 18 or older	0	0
Members received by Transfer or otherwise	8	0
Members removed by Death	5	2
Members removed by   a) Certificate of Transfer	0	0
b) Otherwise	1	3
Total Confirmed Membership	283	278
Total Non-resident Members (included above)	21	21

## Baptisms

*Children:*

Theodore Joseph Rodney Venkatarangam-Moore

*Adults:* None

**Zero Members Received by transfer or otherwise**  
**Two Members Transferred Out**

## Weddings

John Roberto/Sarah Joncas

Dave Amin/Talia Sheepwash

## In Memoriam

Betty Campbell (Member)

Laureen Mumford (Member)

Nastacia Marr

**Erindale United Church, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada**  
**Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting, Sunday March 31, 2019**

The Welcome in the sanctuary, the Lighting of the Christ Candle and the Call to Worship were followed by singing of "Let us Build a House" – *More Voices*, #1.

**Annual Meeting is called to order – Part One**

**1. Election of Chairperson and Secretary – Fraser Code.**

**Fraser Code moved that Ralph Nott, Chair of Church Council, chair the Erindale Annual General Meeting and that Duane McIlwraith be recording secretary for the Erindale AGM. Seconded by Marilyn Johnston. All in favour. Carried.**

The regular worship service continued with the Opening Prayer and the Choir Anthem "All in The April Evening," and Prayer for Illumination. Brock and Kurt Schaubel read the Gospel text from Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32, the story of the prodigal son and his elder brother. The congregation sang the Youth hymn "Come All You People" and in her conversation with the children and youth, Rev. Brenna introduced George Beagley who talked to the youth about how he became a Christian. He stressed that "actions speak louder than words" and that he built his Christian life together with his wife. He showed the children his mother's Bible from 1916 and expressed how much it meant to him.

Rev Brenna delivered her sermon entitled "Cultivating Abundance Living, Letting Go of Scarcity Mentality." She talked about the sons in the parable of the Prodigal Son and then asked the congregation to think collectively about our church: "Which son do we associate with?" Do we believe that material worth is precious? Is Interfaith worth reaching for? Rev. Brenna stressed that all God's children are precious. We do not need to limit our love; love begets more love.

The congregation then recited The New Creed (#918) and The Hymn of Response, "In Loving Partnership We Come" (#603) followed.

**2. Council Report for 2018-2019 – Ralph Nott, Council Chair.**

**"We have everyone we need, and we need everyone we have."** This is a statement Rev Brenna recited in our January 20<sup>th</sup> service and something that has stuck with me, and best describes how Erindale United is able to live out its mission.

Over the past year, activities have started to implement changes to support each of the remits that were passed. Presbytery has officially disbanded, and a new Regional Council is being formed. Erindale United is a member of the Horseshoe Falls Regional Council. I would like to take this opportunity to thank John Hurst, Mary Patterson and Horace Neita for their dedication as Erindale's Presbytery representatives, and the hard work they have performed for the wider church on various Presbytery committees. They have been great ambassadors for Erindale.

Erindale has been a key contributor to the Northwest Mississauga Constituent Group, assisting to bring Syrian refugees to Canada. We have patiently waited for the government procedures to approve our application submissions. This patience finally paid off with Tarek Youzbashi, a 30 year old Syrian refugee, arriving in Canada on May 24<sup>th</sup>, and the Nadaaf family arriving on June 28<sup>th</sup>, just in time to celebrate their daughter's 5<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Expenses to support Tarek and the Nadaafs while they work to become self-sufficient have been higher than originally budgeted. Erindale once again has risen to the challenge, raising over \$12,000.

Having participated in joint summertime services for several years, Erindale United and the Mississauga Mennonite Fellowship have prayerfully discerned a means of growing that partnership through Sunday morning space sharing. The hope is, each congregation will continue to grow in their unique ministry, and that opportunities for shared missions and Christian fellowship will develop.

After an assessment by both Erindale and Mississauga Mennonite Fellowship, it was agreed to proceed with Sunday morning space sharing from March 2019 to August 2020. I look forward to this new relationship and the opportunities that will unfold for both congregations.

Rev Brenna continues to challenge us to revisit our mission and ensure we develop strategies that honour that mission. As Halton Presbytery winds down, a funded opportunity arose for congregations seeking support for renewal, community engagement, reimagining of their vision, and seeking financial sustainability. These services would be paid for by Halton Presbytery, through the Strategic Mission Development committee.

Rev Brenna developed a response to this opportunity with a proposal from Erindale United for a Community Round Table followed by congregational Table Talks. Halton Presbytery approved Erindale's proposal, allocating funds and EDGE network participation in 2019 to implement. This will be a prime focus of Erindale's Council through 2019, and a great way to live into our mission over the upcoming year.

We have been blessed with Erindale United Church staff and volunteers who offer their gifts to our congregation. I hope you have had an opportunity to read through the annual report. Through its pages, you can find an active and vibrant church, and examples of how our gifts have been put to use.

I would like to express my appreciation to the choir, Psalm 98, our sound crew, the Worship committee, Rev. Brenna, and Sarah McEwing for their continued collaboration and dedication to ensure that we have excellent musical support for our worship services during this time of uncertainty.

In closing, **"We have everyone we need, and we need everyone we have."**

### **3. Table of Organization – Ralph Nott.**

**Moved by Christian Hawn and seconded by John Hurst that the Table of Organization for "Council and Committees" be approved as printed with the addition of Paul Sabourin's name added to the list of Council members. All in favour. Carried.**

### **4. Commissioning members of the EUC Council and Committees for 2019.**

Rev. Brenna invited the parishioners listed on the "Table of Organization for Council and Committees" (which was included in the service bulletin) to stand and be recognized, and she thanked them for their commitment to the life of the church. She gave the Blessing and Commissioning for the Council and Committees for 2019 as the volunteers and members of the congregation joined physically together.

Our guest organist, Wayne Detcher, offered music during the offertory. The sending hymn "There's a Spirit in the Air" (#602) followed. Rev. Brenna gave a blessing for the lunch prepared for the congregation; this was followed by the Benediction. "Triumphant Finale" played as the congregation recessed about 11:50 AM. to Gardner Hall for light refreshments and conversation.

## **Annual Meeting is called to order – Part Two**

### **5. Call to order – Ralph Nott.**

Ralph reconvened the AGM in Gardner Hall at 12:22 P.M. He thanked the helpers for setting up the hall. He thanked the UCW and the congregation for the lunch refreshments and requested help with clean-up after the meeting.

## **6. Approvals.**

- a) Joanne Stewart moved the approval of the minutes of the AGM held on Sunday March 18, 2018 (pgs. 31-34). Seconded by Marlene Thompson. All in favour. Carried.** There was no business arising from the minutes.
- b) John Stewart moved acceptance of the reports of the standing committees (pgs. 8-23). Seconded by Mary Patterson. All in favour. Carried.** There was no business arising from the reports.
- c) John Hurst moved acceptance of the report of Halton Presbytery (pg. 24). Seconded by Paul Sabourin. All in favour. Carried.** There was no business arising from the report.
- d) Dallas McLean moved acceptance of the report of UCW (pgs. 25-27). Seconded by Pat Jenkins. All in favour. Carried.** There was no business arising from the report.
- e) George Beagley moved approval of the Congregational Statistics Report (pg. 30) Seconded by Earl Cochrane. All in favour. Carried.** There was no discussion arising from this report.

## **7. Presentation of the Financial Statements – Paul Sabourin.**

Paul, Chair of Stewardship within F&P, acknowledged the very important work by Norma Macintyre and Barbara Manchur who put together the PowerPoint presentation. The detailed statements had previously been circulated to the congregation and Paul discussed the slides as projected on a big screen. He particularly explained how the various funds were used, and how the funds which had been presented at the 2018 budget were actually administered throughout the year.

Barbara Manchur told the assembled group that although the church accepts payments through the “Canada Helps” program (a form of givings through credit card), it really was a very expensive way to donate to the church because of the percentage that was deducted by the organization. It has primarily been set up to accommodate costs at funerals and weddings.

Steve Wykurz thanked Norma Macintyre and Barbara Manchur for their dedicated financial work for Erindale United over 2018. He also pointed out the importance of the following groups who presented a very positive worship experience recently and throughout the year as well -- the choir, Psalm 98 with Jim Bright leading, Rachel and Ralph Nott on the sound system, and Rev. Brenna and Jutta Argao. He ended his thanks by mentioning Paul Sabourin who managed to get the lease with Tender Years signed after many months of negotiating, as well as Jan Everett who deals with Tender Years on a daily basis.

**Steve Wykurz moved that the 2019 budget be accepted as presented. Seconded by Garry Jenkins. All in favour. Carried.**

## **8. Auditors.**

Barbara Manchur explained why the church had changed auditors in 2018.

Doug Johnston pointed out that in note number 6 to the financial statement of EUC, Trustees should not be listed as a member of the Church Council. The Board of Trustees reports to the congregation. The Chair said that he would ensure that the note is corrected at once.

**Barbara Manchur moved that the firm of Capstick McCollum & Associates, Professional Chartered Accountants, be appointed auditors for 2019. Seconded by Norma Macintyre. All in favour. Carried.**

**9. Other business.**

There was no other business.

**10. Adjournment.**

At 1:20 PM. The Chair called for a motion to adjourn. Paul Sabourin **so moved. Seconded by David Drennan. All in favour. Carried.**

**Benediction by Rev. Brenna.**

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Secretary: Duane McIlwraith

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Chair: Ralph Nott